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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,121	GEISSLER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric A. Gates	3722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's After Final Amendment filed on 9 March 2006 and interview of 22 March 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 5 and 7-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's Amendment After Final filed on 9 March 2006.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Lawrence Maxham on 22 March 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A workpiece seat for the machining of bar-shaped workpieces by milling and turning operations, said workpiece seat comprising: an elongated housing; a spindle rotatably supported in the housing, said spindle having a working end; an electric direct drive for the spindle, said drive comprising a rotor fixed on the spindle and a stator fixed in the housing; a clamping means provided at the working end of the spindle, said clamping means being shaped and configured for fixing a bar-shaped workpiece in the spindle; a front-side spindle bearing arrangement; a connection unit provided at a rear part of the housing for energy supply; and a fixing means for fixing the spindle in the housing by contacting the working end of the spindle, said fixing means being formed as a compact part and ~~[is]~~ arranged on the working end

Art Unit: 3722

of the spindle before the front-side spindle bearing arrangement, the fixing means further comprising an annular elongated pressure chamber formed in the housing part, into which at least one pressure-oil channel terminates and which is limited in a radial inward direction by a deformable radial inner wall.

2. (Cancelled)

3. Claims 1, 4-5, and 7-10 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 1 sets forth a workpiece seat for the machining of bar-shaped workpieces by milling and turning operations comprising a housing, a spindle, an electric direct drive comprising a rotor fixed on the spindle and a stator fixed in the housing, a clamping means provided at the working end of the spindle shaped and configured for fixing a bar-shaped workpiece in the spindle, a front-side spindle bearing arrangement, a connection unit for supplying energy, and a fixing means for fixing the spindle in the housing by contacting the working end of the spindle. The fixing means is formed as a compact part and is arranged on the working end of the spindle before the front-side spindle bearing arrangement, and comprises an annular elongated pressure chamber formed in the housing part, into which at least one pressure-oil channel terminates and which is limited in a radial inward direction by a deformable radial inner wall.

The closest prior art of record is to Gramespacher (DE 39 13 139 C 2).

Gramespacher discloses a workpiece seat including a housing 6, a spindle 7, an electric

Art Unit: 3722

drive 10 for the spindle comprising a rotor 10a fixed on the spindle and a stator 10b fixed on the housing, a clamping means 14 shaped and configured for fixing bar-shaped workpiece in the spindle, a front-side spindle bearing arrangement 9, a connection unit 15a/b for supplying energy, and a fixing means 21 for fixing the spindle in the housing by contacting the working end of the spindle. The fixing means is a compact part arranged on the working end of the spindle before the front-side spindle bearing arrangement. However, the fixing means of Gramespacher does not include an annular elongated pressure chamber formed in the housing part, into which at least one pressure-oil channel terminates and which is limited in a radial inward direction by a deformable radial inner wall.

Also, there is no combinable teaching in the prior art of record that would reasonably motivate one having ordinary skill in the art to so modify the teachings of Gramespacher or other prior art, and thus, for at least the foregoing reasoning, the prior art of record does not render obvious the present invention as set forth in independent claim 1.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3722

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric A. Gates whose telephone number is 571-272-5498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:45-6:15.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER



EAG
22 March 2006